

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

NTL No. 2001-N02

Effective Date: September 6, 2001

**NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES  
IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

**Submitting Semiannual Well Test Results Electronically**

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) announces and explains how you can electronically submit Semiannual Well Test results.

**Background**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) regulations (30 CFR 250.1102(b)(3)) require lessees/operators to conduct well tests at least once every 6 months for each producing completion and submit the results on form MMS-128, Semiannual Well Test Report. Currently, most operators comply with this requirement by completing and submitting numerous paper copies of form MMS-128. Following a successful pilot program, MMS is now prepared to accept these data electronically from all interested operators.

**Acceptable Formats**

In addition to paper forms, MMS will now accept flat files in either a fixed-length format or comma-delimited format ASCII file. Operators interested in submitting electronic semiannual well test results should review the attached instructions, which explain the acceptable formats in more detail.

Since all data required on form MMS-128 are public information, most operators are comfortable with submitting the flat files as e-mail attachments. If you prefer, you may also mail the file(s) on a 3.5-inch floppy disk or a CD.

**Regional Addresses and Contacts**

You should submit the data to the appropriate region at the e-mail or mailing address shown below. If you have questions about this method or need further assistance, the regional office telephone numbers are also provided.

**Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

Minerals Management Service  
Rate Control Unit, MS 5331  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394

**rate.control.unit@mms.gov**

**(504) 736-2480**

**Alaska OCS Region**

Minerals Management Service  
Field Operations  
949 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 300  
Anchorage, AK 99508-4363

**fieldops\_alaska@mms.gov**

**(907) 271-6065**

**Pacific OCS Region**

Minerals Management Service  
Production, Development and  
Reservoir Analysis Section, MS 7100  
770 Paseo Camarillo  
Camarillo, CA 93010

**pdra@mms.gov**

**(805) 389-7707**

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement**

The information collection referred to in this NTL provides a reporting option for form MMS-128. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements of this form and assigned OMB control number 1010-0017. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

6 September 2001

Date

Carolita U. Kallaur

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Associate Director for  
Offshore Minerals Management

Attachments

## Attachment 1 - Instructions for submitting electronic Semi-Annual Well Test Reports

Operators may submit Semi-Annual Well Test Reports electronically by sending flat files containing these data to the appropriate Minerals Management Service (MMS) Regional Office. The flat files submitted to MMS must be produced in ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), and follow one of two acceptable formats - either fixed-length format (Attachment 2) or comma-delimited format (Attachment 3). The comma-delimited format is preferred.

There are 17 required fields (A through Q on Attachment 4) that must be populated for each gas-well completion. Only 15 of these fields (A through O) are required for oil-well completions. Each of these required fields corresponds to a required field on the paper MMS-128 form (Attachment 5).

Each row in the flat file should represent a separate completion. Therefore, each row should contain either 15 (oil) or 17 (gas) fields. If you choose to follow the fixed-length format, each field must be entered in the appropriate column(s) as shown in Attachment 2. For example, the lease number should be entered in columns 29-38 and the flowing tubing pressure should be entered in columns 243-247. Attachment 4 explains the format of each field. For example, the lease number should follow the mask C>NNNNNBBBB (one character followed by five numbers followed by four blanks). All character fields will be left justified and all numeric fields will be right justified. Both data fields are padded with blanks to the specified column length.

The comma-delimited format (Attachment 3) is similar to the fixed-format method except the fields are not required to be placed in specific columns. Instead, the fields are simply listed in order and separated by commas. Note that there are several commas between some fields (Attachment 3) because the format allows for submission of numerous other fields not required on the MMS-128 form. The non-mandatory fields are omitted from these instructions for simplification purposes. At the end of each completion (row), a semi-colon should be present to indicate the end of that record (comma-delimited format only).

Attachment 2 - Fixed-length Format:

Start Position	Item Length	Data Type	Description
0001	0005	Character	Operator Code
0006	0015	Character	API Number + Production Interval Code (Appended together)
0021	0008	Character	Field Name Code
0029	0010	Character	Lease Number (Mask CNNNNNBBBB)
0039	0006	Character	Well Name (Mask CCNNNC)
0101	0003	Character	Test Type (This will always be SEM for semi-annual well tests)
0107	0001	Character	Well Test Product Code (O for oil; G for gas)
0118	0002	Character	Production Method Code (2 characters)
0140	0006	Integer	Test Start Date (YYMMDD)
0178	0006	Integer	Oil 24 Hour Rate
0184	0006	Integer	Gas 24 Hour Rate
0190	0006	Integer	Water 24 Hour Rate
0216	0003	Integer	Choke Size
0233	0004	Real	Oil API Gravity
0243	0005	Integer	Flowing Tubing Pressure
0248	0005	Integer	Shut-In Pressure (required for gas wells only)
0253	0005	Integer	Line Pressure (required for gas wells only)

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Note - 12/11/01 Attachment 2 revised to correct the start position of the Well Name Field.

Attachment 3 - Comma-delimited Format:

Operator Code,API Number+Production Interval Code,Field Name Code,Lease Number,Well Name,,,,,,,,Test  
Type,,Well Test Product Code,,,Production Method Code,,,,,Test Start Date,,,,,Oil 24 Hour Rate,Gas 24 Hour  
Rate,Water 24 Hour Rate,,,,Choke Size,,,,Oil API Gravity,,,Flowing Tubing Pressure,Shut-In Pressure,Line  
Pressure,,;

Note - In the actual flat file, these fields should all be on one line with the semi-colon at the end. The next line should contain these fields for the next completion. Note also that the Shut-In Pressure and Line Pressure fields are only required for gas wells.

## Attachment 4 - Definitions:

- (A) Operator Code - MMS code number of the designated operator. (5 characters)
- (B-1) API Number - A unique well identification number consisting of (from left to right) a 2-digit state code (or pseudo for Offshore), a 3-digit county code (or pseudo for Offshore), a 5-digit unique well code, and if applicable, a 2-digit sidetrack code as defined in API Bulletin D12A. Maximum length = 12 characters.
- (B-2) Production Interval Code - Indicates the number of tubing strings and the producing or injection interval of the well. Maximum length = 3 characters. Note - Append this 3-character code to the 12-character API number, thus creating a 15-character, unique identifier for each completion.
- (C) Field Name Code - Name of the field in which the well is located. (8 characters)
- (D) Lease Number - The number assigned to a lease by the regulatory agency having jurisdiction over mineral activity in the territory where the lease is located. (10 characters; mask = CNNNNNBBB)
- (E) Well Name - The name assigned to the well. (6 characters; mask = CCNNNC)
- (F) Test Type - Indicates the type of well test conducted. (3 characters; valid codes include SEM, POT, QTR, and COM; semi-annual well tests are test type SEM)
- (G) Well Test Product Code - Indicates the mineral produced during a well test. (1 character; valid codes include G and O for gas and oil, respectively)
- (H) Production Method Code - Indicates the method by which the well test was conducted. (2 characters; valid codes include FL (flowing), GL (gas lift), EP (electrical pump), JP (jet pump), RP (rod pump), and UK (unknown).)
- (I) Test Start Date - The date that the identified test was run. (Fixed format = 6-digit integer, YYMMDD; Comma-delimited format = 8-digit integer, YYYYMMDD)
- (J) Oil 24 Hour Rate - The extrapolated volume of oil (barrels) that would be produced in a 24-hour period. (6-digit integer)
- (K) Gas 24 Hour Rate - The extrapolated volume of gas (thousand cubic feet) that would be produced in a 24-hour period. Measured gas volumes shall be adjusted to the standard conditions of 14.73 psia and 60 degrees F. (6-digit integer)
- (L) Water 24 Hour Rate - The extrapolated volume of water (barrels) that would be produced in a 24-hour period. (6-digit integer)
- (M) Choke Size - The inside diameter of the choke (64ths of an inch) used to control a well test. (3-digit integer)
- (N) Oil API Gravity - Gravity (weight per unit of volume) of crude oil or other liquid hydrocarbon expressed in degrees API where a specific gravity of 1.0 is the equivalent of 10 degrees API. (4-digit real number)
- (O) Flowing Tubing Pressure - The pressure (pounds per square inch gauge) recorded in the tubing during a well test while open to flow. (5-digit integer)
- (P) Shut-In Pressure - The pressure (pounds per square inch gauge) exerted on the wellhead under shut-in/static well conditions. (5-digit integer) This field is required only for gas-well completions.
- (Q) Line Pressure - The back pressure (pounds per square inch gauge) exerted by the pipeline during the well test. (5-digit integer) This field is required only for gas-well completions.

